the holiday packages will be launched jointly by Indian Airlines and Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh for promotion of tourism.

International flights from Hyderabad Airport

3097. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airlines of UK, Switzerland, Singapore and Sri Lanka have shown interest to operate their flights to and from Hyderabad Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to grant permission to these airlines to start their flights; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Government of Singapore and Sir Lanka have requested for Hyderabad as an additional point of call for their respective designated airlines. However British Airways and Swiss Air who had in the past shown interest to operate to Hyderabad have not followed it up. Such requests are considered during bilateral air services consultations with respective Governments as and when held.

Losses due to open sky policy

3098. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether open sky policy to tide over the capacity crunch as a short term solution is causing loss of Rs. 15,000 crores with 40 international flights discontinuing operation;

(b) whether Welcome Travels owns a sum of about Rs. 3 crores paid to them during 1997-98 because of excess commission by Air India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government on both the issues?